

What is claimed is:

1. A method for preventing telephone calls from being initiated using a current loop wire line telephone connection, which method comprises the following steps:

- connecting a first device incorporating a switch hook to said telephone line;
- detecting the use of the telephone line, by a telecommunication apparatus connected to the telephone line;
- activating the first device switch hook to go off hook;

whereby the telecommunication device is unable to place an outgoing call using the telephone line.

2. The method of claim 1, where the actuation of the switch hook can be placed alternatively into an enabled or disabled state, the method further including the preliminary step of enabling the switch hook.

3. The method of claim 2, in which the switch hook is enabled upon receipt of a first predetermined signal from an external circuit, and disabled upon receipt of a second predetermined signal from an external circuit.

4. The method of claim 3, in which the external circuit is a timer circuit, whereby the switch hook is enabled and/or disabled at predetermined times.

5. The method of claim 3, in which the external circuit is a property security system.

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6. The method of claim 1, further including the following steps:

- detecting one or more DTMF signals on the telephone line;
- generating a constant DTMF signal in response to detecting one or more DTMF signals;
- applying the constant DTMF signal to the telephone line;

whereby DTMF dialing cannot take place on the telephone line.

7. The method of claim 6, in which the step of detecting one or more DTMF signals comprises the substep of detecting a predetermined sequence of DTMF signals.

8. The method of claim 7, in which the predetermined sequence of DTMF signals is programmable.

9. The method of claim 1, further including the subsequent step of recording the time and date corresponding to each detected unauthorized use of the telephone line, whereby a record of attempted calls is made.

10. The method of claim 6, further including the subsequent step of recording the time and date by corresponding to each detected unauthorized use of the telephone line, whereby the first device keeps a record of attempted calls.

11. The method of claim 1, further including the subsequent step of activating a signaling device, whereby the signaling device indicates when an unauthorized telephone call is in progress.

12. The method of claim 6, further including the subsequent step of activating a signaling device, whereby the signaling device indicates when an unauthorized telephone call is in progress.

13. The method of claim 1, further including the subsequent step of notifying the telephone company that an unauthorized call is in progress.

14. The method of claim 6, further including the subsequent step of notifying the telephone company that an unauthorized call is in progress.

15. The method of claim 14, where the step of notifying the telephone company is comprised of the substep of applying by the first device a predetermined multi-frequency signal to the telephone line; whereby the first device can utilize the extended DTMF signaling set to notify the telephone company that an unauthorized call is in progress.

16. The method of claim 14, where the step of notifying the telephone company is comprised of the following substeps:

- initiating a digital communications link with the telephone company; and

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- transmitting data indicating the occurrence of one or more unauthorized call attempts.

17. The method of claim 16, in which the step of transmitting data indicating the occurrence of one or more unauthorized call attempts further includes the substep of transmitting data indicating the time and date of the unauthorized call attempts.

18. A telephone line monitoring device comprising

- telephone line interface for connection to a telephone network line, including a switch hook for alternatively placing the telephone line monitoring device in an on-hook or off-hook position;
- line monitor circuit connected to the means for connecting to a telephone network, which circuit provides an output signal when a second device operatively connected to the telephone line has gone off hook;
- microcontroller circuit electrically connected to the parallel set detection circuit output, the microcontroller providing an output which controls the state of the hook switch.

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19. The device of claim 18, further including a security switch, which switch enables and disables operation of the switch hook, the switch being electrically connected to the microcontroller circuit.

20. The device of claim 18, further including a Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signal detector with an input electrically connected to the telephone line, and output electrically connected to the microcontroller circuit, whereby the Dual Tone Multi-Frequency detector outputs decoded Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals to the microcontroller.

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21. The device of claim 20, further including a Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signal generator, having an input electrically connected to the microcontroller circuit, and which output is electrically connected to the telephone line.

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22. The device of claim 20, further including a telephone line data modem connected to the microcontroller circuit, and also connected to the telephone line, whereby the modem provides for digital communications between the microcontroller and the telephone network.

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23. The device of claim 20, further including a wireless RF transceiver connected to the microcontroller circuit, whereby the transceiver provides for communications indicating unauthorized call activity between the microcontroller and a wireless communications network.

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24. The device of claim 18, further including a clock circuit electrically connected to the microcontroller circuit.

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25. The device of claim 18, further including an indicating means, electrically connected to the microcontroller circuit, whereby the indicating means provides indication to the device user of whether the telephone line is being used.